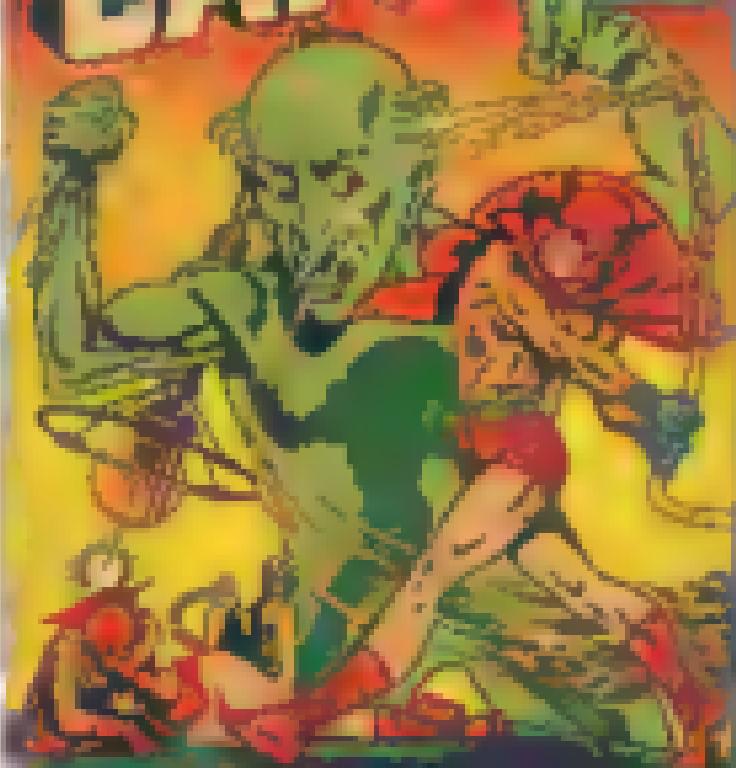


10

JULY

CATMAN



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



BACK THE ATTACK! BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

THE CAT-MAN and THE KITTEN

BY
CHAS. M.
QUINLAN



THE BLIND GODDESS OF JUSTICE HAS THE LAST LAUGH WHEN THE CATMAN AND THE KITTEN STEP IN AND PROVE TO THE NOTORIOUS TONY MORONI THAT MONEY CAN'T BLIND ALL WHO SERVE AS---

THE EYES OF JUSTICE!

HERE WE ARE KATIE. THIS IS THE THRESHOLD OF ALL THAT CIVILIZATION STANDS FOR! -- COME, -- LET'S GO IN!

GEE!

I USED TO COME HERE OFTEN. THE LEADS FOR MANY OF MY MOST EXCITING CASES CAME FROM HERE!



THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

HELLO MIKE! ANY
IMPORTANT CASES
BEING TRIED
TODAY?

WHAT? HUM--
OH-- HEY?

WELL I'LL BE!--- IF IT ISN'T
DAVY MERRYWETHER---
OH--HO!--- NO WONDER I
DIDN'T SEE YE AROUND--
YE'RE IN THE ARMY!

THAT'S RIGHT
MIKE--- EVER SINCE
PEARL HARBOR!
--NOW HOW ABOUT
THAT CASE?



THERE'S ONE IN HERE
THAT MIGHT INTEREST
YE A BIT!-- IT'S THE
LOOEY MORONI CASE!

MORONI?--
NEVER HEARD
OF HIM! WHAT'S
HE CHARGED
WITH?

MURDER,
COLD BLOODED
DELIBERATE
MURDER!

THANKS A LOT MIKE!
SEE YOU LATER--
C'MON KATIE!



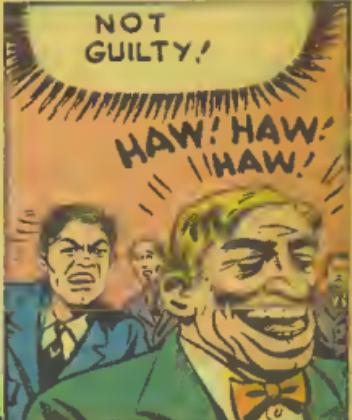
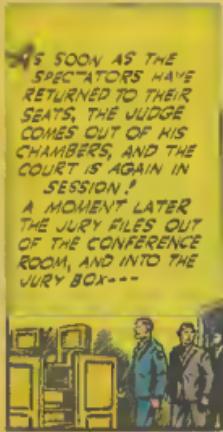
AS THE CATMAN AND THE KITTEN ENTER THE
HUSHED COURTROOM-- THE JUDGE IS CHARGING THE JURY!

NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU
HAVE HEARD THE EVIDENCE.
I WON'T DENY THAT I HAVE
ALREADY FORMED AN OPINION. BUT
JUSTICE IS NOT BASED ON THE
OPINION OF ANY ONE MAN!--
INSTEAD IT IS DEPENDENT
ON THE DECISION OF YOU
THE JURY! ---



-- THEREFORE, I CHARGE YOU TO
RETIRE TO THE JURY ROOM AND
TRY TO ARRIVE AT A JUST VERDICT
PRESENTED,--- THE COURT WILL
RECESS UNTIL YOU ARE READY!





DO YOUR PART FOR VICTORY ON THE HOME FRONT!

ORDER! ORDER IN THE COURT! ANOTHER OUTBURST LIKE THAT MORONI, AND I'LL HOLD YOU IN CONTEMPT!

GO AHEAD, JUDGE, --SEE IF I CARE! DIS IS TOO GOOD! --HAW HAW HAW!

VERY WELL MORONI! THAT LAUGH WILL COST YOU ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS! PAY THE CLERK, AND I'LL DOUBLE THE FINE ON ANY SUCCEEDING OUTBURSTS!

SEETHING WITH RAGE, THE JUDGE THEN VENTS HIS INDIGNATION UPON THE SQUIRMING JURY!

NEVER IN MY MANY YEARS ON THE BENCH HAVE I ENCOUNTERED A MORE FLAGRANT MISCARriage OF JUSTICE!

YOU ARE FREE TO GO MORONI, BUT MARK MY WORDS--YOU WILL PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES! JUSTICE WILL NOT BE CHEATED BY YOU OR ANY OTHER--GET OUT OF HERE!

OKAY JUDGE, G'BYE AND THANKS FOR THE BAD APPLES!

AS MORONI, LEERING SARCASTICALLY, DEPARTS FROM THE COURTROOM, THE CATMAN FOLLOWS--

COME ON KATIE, I WANT A WORD WITH THAT OVERSTUFFED HOODLUM!

HEY MORONI!

HUH!
WHO'S THAT?

WHAT D'YOU WANT?
DE ARMY WON'T TAKE ME! I GOT A RECORD!

THE ARMY WOULDN'T HAVE YOU--
YOUR KIND ARE A DIME A DOZEN--YOU BEAT THE LAW AGAIN, BUT AS THE JUDGE SAID, JUSTICE WILL NOT BE CHEATED!

YOU'RE A SMART GUY MORONI,--AND SMART GUYS KNOW THAT JUSTICE IS BLIND, BUT DON'T LET IT FOOL YOU, JUSTICE HAS MANY EYES WORKING FOR HER!



SOMETIMES THEY ARE MADE BLIND BY GREED, BUT JUSTICE STILL HAS OTHER EYES! THE EYES OF THE CRIME FIGHTERS! --THOSE MYSTERIOUS BEINGS WHO FIGHT CRIME, NOT FOR GOLD, BUT BECAUSE THEY HATE CRIME AND CRIMINALS!

THEIR EYES ARE STRONG! YES, EVEN STRONG ENOUGH TO SEE IN THE DARK! --- THEY WILL SEEK YOU OUT MORONI! YOU ARE A MARKED MAN!



HAW- HAW- HAW! YOU SOUND LIKE A PRESS AGENT FOR THE CATMAN! --OR MAYBE YOU BEEN READING TOO MANY COMIC BOOKS LATELY!

HAVE IT YOUR OWN WAY MORONI-- BUT REMEMBER WHAT I SAID--- YOU'RE A MARKED MAN!



CHEE! DE WAY DAT GUY LOOKED AT YA BOSS-- IT GIVES ME DE CREEPS! HEY-- MAYBE HE'S DE CATMAN HIMSELF!

YEH, AND MAYBE HE'S THE KING OF ENGLAND TOO--- FORGET IT! FROM NOW ON I GOT A LOT OF WORK TO DO!



ONE HOUR LATER--AT HIS HANGOUT, MORONI GETS DOWN TO HIS WORK!

THE ELITE TRUCKING CO. HAS BEEN GETTING OUT OF HAND WHILE I WAS AWAY! HOP DOWN THERE AND STRAIGHTEN THEM OUT!



WHEN YOU FINISH WITH THEM, GO OVER TO THE ACME LAUNDRY! THEY NEED A TREATMENT TOO!



BUT, AT THE DOOR TO MORONI'S APARTMENT THE KEEN EARS OF THE CATMAN LISTEN INTENTLY

THE ELITE TRUCKING CO. AND THE ACME LAUNDRY--- 'LET'S GO KITTEN!



BACK THE ATTACK! BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

TEN MINUTES LATER---MORONI'S MOB ARRIVES AT THE TRUCKING COMPANY'S OFFICES, AND BOLDLY ENTERS---

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT'S THE MEANING
OF THIS?

DON'T GET EXCITED CHUM, JUST A FRIENDLY VISIT! YER BEHIND IN YOUR PAYMENTS! OKAY BOYS---YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO!

WAIT! WAIT,
WELL PAY!

TOO LATE, BUDDY! YA SHOULDA THOUGHT OF THAT SOONER!

C'MON GUYS,
GET BUSY!



SORRY TO SPOIL YOUR FUN BOYS---BUT IF THERE'S ANY WRECKING TO BE DONE---I'LL DO IT!

YEOW!
IT'S DE
CATMAN!

YES BOYS, IN
PERSON!

--AND IN CASE YOU
DIDN'T NOTICE,
THE KITTEN IS
HERE TOO!



THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF THE CATMAN AND HIS LITTLE ALLY COMPLETELY DEVORALIZES THE COWARDLY THUGS!

GANGWAY! I'M
GETTING OUT OF
HERE!

ME TOO!

ME
THREE'

THANKS CATMAN!--
BUT, LOOK--THEY'RE
GETTING AWAY!
THEY'LL COME
BACK!

DON'T WORRY! WE KNOW
WHERE THEY'RE GOING, AND
WE'LL BE THERE TO MEET
THEM! COME ON KITTEN!

WOW!
WHAT A
MAN!



CATMAN COMICS

GEE / DAT GUY LANDS
LIKE A TON OF BRICKS /
STEP ON IT JOE / ---
OW! ME JAW!

HOW DID HE KNOW
WE WERE GOIN' TO
WRECK DAT PLACE?
SOMEONE MUSTA'
TIPPED HIM OFF!

GOSH!
MAYBE HE'S
PSYCHIC!

WELL, IF HE
IS WE'LL FOOL
HIM! WE'RE GOIN'
INTO DE ACME
BY DE BACK WAY!

A FEW MINUTES LATER

ALL RIGHT YOU GUYS,
I'LL GO IN FIRST AND
SEE IF IT'S O.K.

ACME
LAUNDRY
SPECIALTY
LAUNDRY



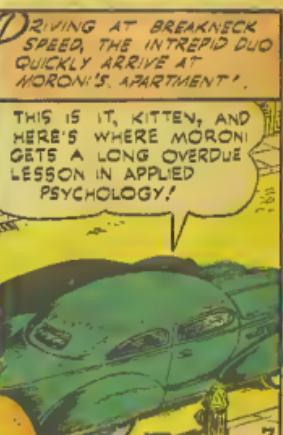
LOOK AT 'EM GO--- YOU
ALWAYS SAID MOBSTERS
WERE COWARDS AT
HEART!

YES KITTEN
BUT EVEN
RATS ARE
DANGEROUS
WHEN THEY'RE
CORNERED!

IF MY GUESS IS
CORRECT, THEY'LL
PHONE MORONI
AND TELL HIM
WHAT HAPPENED.
---AND WE'VE
GOT TO BE THERE
WHEN HE GETS
THAT CALL!

DRIVING AT BREAKNECK
SPEED, THE INTREPID DUO
QUICKLY ARRIVE AT
MORONI'S APARTMENT.

THIS IS IT, KITTEN, AND
HERE'S WHERE MORONI
GETS A LONG OVERDUE
LESSON IN APPLIED
PSYCHOLOGY!



THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

IT'S US BOSS! THE
CATMAN-- HE ---

OH YEAH, --
O.K. GET BACK
HERE QUICK!
WE'LL SHOW THAT
MEDDLING---

AS MORONI PUTS DOWN THE
PHONE THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY
GO OUT AND A HOLLOW VOICE
BOOHS LOUDLY...

YOU'RE
A MARKED
MAN, MORONI.
JUSTICE WILL
NOT BE
CHEATED!

WHAT HAPPENED
TO THE LIGHTS? HEY?
WHO SAID THAT?

I SAID IT MORONI!
I WARNED YOU--
YOU'RE A MARKED
MAN!

THE CATMAN
NO--NO IT
CAN'T BE!

AS SUDENLY AS THE FIGURE
APPEARED IT DISAPPEARS!

HEY, WHERE ARE YOU?
C'MON, SHOW YOURSELF!
I DARE YOU!--I'LL
BREAK EVERY
BONE IN YOUR
BODY!

IN THE CATMAN
SNAPS ON HIS FLASH!

HERE I AM
MORONI! HEY!

AS HE LUNGES TO THE ATTACK--
THE CATMAN NIMBLY LEAPS ASIDE
AND DELIVERS A TERRIFIC HAYMAKER
THAT SENDS MORONI CRASHING INTO
PAIR OF TIGHTLY DRAWN DRAPE!

GOOD LORD!

WHAT HAPPENED
UNCLE DAVID?
WHAT WAS
THAT CRASH?

THAT, KATIE, WAS
TONI MORONI
KEEPING A DATE
WITH JUSTICE? I
DIDN'T KNOW THERE
WAS A WINDOW
BEHIND THESE
DRAPE!--WELL,
THE LAW COULDN'T
CATCH UP WITH
HIM, BUT
DESTINY DID!



Always
A THRILLING
ADVENTURE with
THE CATMAN and THE KITTEN
in CATMAN COMICS!

The Deacon

and MICKEY

WAS THE DEACON'S MIND STRONG ENOUGH TO PROVE HIS FAITH IN HIMSELF? FOLLOW THE ADVENTURE OF THE DEACON AND MICKEY AS THEY COME FACE TO FACE WITH RASPUTIN, JR.



HERE'S THAT ADVERTISEMENT I TOLD YOU ABOUT, DEAC. IT'S ON THE THEATRICAL PAGE...

HMM--
LET ME SEE
IT, MICKEY...



I THINK WE OUGHT TO TAKE IN THAT PERFORMANCE, MICKEY--IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I'VE SEEN ONE OF THESE FELLOWS.



SHORTLY BEFORE EIGHT O'CLOCK, THE DEACON AND MICKEY STAND IN FRONT OF A THEATRE....

HE SURE ISN'T THE HANDSOMEST THING IN THE WORLD,
NO, DEAC!
BUT FOR HIS ACT HE CERTAINLY MAKES A GOOD APPEARANCE!



THANK YOU FOR THE COMPLIMENT, MY FRIEND! ARE YOU ON YOUR WAY TO SEE MY PERFORMANCE?

WHY--WHY-- IT'S RASPUTIN, JR., MICKEY, SURE, WE WERE GOING IN---

GOOD, YOU SHALL BE MY GUEST-- YOU ARE A MEMBER OF THE CLERGY-- AM I NOT RIGHT?

WELL YES--IN A PECULIAR SORT OF WAY



SOME TIME LATER THE DEACON AND MICKEY ARE OCCUPYING A PRIVATE BOX AT THE THEATRE.

HE SEEMS TO BE A PRETTY SWELL FELLOW DEAC...



A HYPNOTIZED PERSON CANNOT BE MADE TO DO ANYTHING HE WOULD NOT DO IN EVERYDAY LIFE. ...BUT IF A PERSON HAS EVIL OR CRIMINAL CHARACTERISTICS, THIS CAN BE BROUGHT OUT BY HYPNOSIS! WATCH MY DEMONSTRATION CLOSELY.

TO PROVE TO YOU THAT NOTHING HAS BEEN REHEARSED I HAVE ASKED THE COOPERATION OF MISS RITA JORDAN, DAUGHTER OF THE MAYOR OF CENTER CITY...I WILL NOW PUT HER INTO A DEEP HYPNOTIC TRANCE!



SEVERAL MINUTES LATER UNDER THE SKILLFUL MANIPULATIONS OF THE MASTER HYPNOTIST RITA FALLS INTO A TRANCE....

OBSERVE THAT I HOLD TWO DAGGERS...ONE IS OF CARDBOARD, BUT THE OTHER IS A REAL SHARP STEEL BLADE! DOES ANY PARTICULARLY GOOD FRIEND OF MISS JORDAN WISH TO STEP UP HERE?



CATMAN COMICS

RUTH WILLIAMS, A FRIEND OF RITA'S, VOLUNTEERS FOR THE BIZAARE EXPERIMENT--

I WANT YOU TO FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY... I WANT YOU TO TAKE THIS KNIFE, AND PLUNGE IT INTO THE BACK OF MISS WILLIAMS, A FRIEND OF YOURS!



ONCE MORE RITA ADVANCES ON HER FRIEND....

PLUNGE IT DEEP IN HER BACK!



AS YOU SEE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IF MISS WILLIAMS HAD THE INSTINCT TO KILL WITHIN HER, SHE WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED MY INSTRUCTIONS AND POSSIBLY HAVE MURDERED HER BEST FRIEND!



COMPLETELY UNDER THE HYPNOTIC POWER OF RASPUTIN, RITA COMPLETELY OBEYS HIS INSTRUCTIONS

VERY WELL DONE!



AFTER THE SHOW AN EXHUBERANT MICKEY GOES HOME WITH A THOUGHTFUL DEACON



-AND NOW I WANT YOU TO DO THE SAME THING ALL OVER AGAIN BUT WITH THIS KNIFE!



-BUT MURDER IS NOT IN THE HEART OF THIS GENTLE GIRL AS SHE SOPS SILENTLY ON THE STAGE!

I-I-I CAN'T DO IT! THERE-THERE EVERYTHING IS ALL RIGHT.



GEE-HE'S SWELL DEAC, AIN'T HE? SAY--WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND, DEAC? YOU LOOK SERIOUS!

DON'T KNOW, MICKEY BOY-- I WAS JUST THINKING--

BACK THE ATTACK! BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, RASPUTIN HAS A MEETING WITH CENTER CITY'S MOST NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS.

COME ON, RASPUTIN! WE SAW YOUR ACT AND WE THOUGHT YOU WERE TERRIFIC!

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER OUR HYPNOTIST FRIEND IS ENGAGED IN DEEP CONVERSATION WITH MOODY. YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY SURE IT WILL WORK, RASPUTIN?

DO YOU DOUBT ME? IT WORKED IN EVERY TOWN I PLAYED IN!

YOU SAW HIM THEN? DO YOU THINK YOU HAVE HIS CONFIDENCE?

YES, I AM QUITE SURE I HAVE. I RECOGNIZED HIM IMMEDIATELY ON THE STREET. HE AND HIS YOUNG FRIEND SAW ME PERFORM.

AND SO--THE FOLLOWING EVENING THE DEACON AND MICKEY ARE INTERRUPTED IN THEIR CUSTOMARY STROLL UNDER THE QUIET TREES ON PINE STREET.

PSST-PSST! THIS IS FOR YOU!

IT'S FROM RASPUTIN JR., MICKEY, AND HE WANTS ME TO MEET HIM ALONE IN ROOM 1309, IN CENTER CITY HOTEL. I WONDER WHAT HE WANTS OF ME!

ALONE? YOU MEAN YOU AREN'T GOING TO TAKE ME WITH YOU, DEAC?

DESPITE MICKEY'S PLEAS TO ACCOMPANY HIS IDOL, THE DEACON IS VERY INSISTENT UPON GOING TO THE HOTEL--ALONE--

NO, MICKEY BOY, NOT THIS TIME! I'VE GOT SOMETHING ON MY MIND THAT I'VE WANTED TO FIND OUT FOR SOME TIME--AND I HAVE TO DO IT ALONE! WAIT FOR ME AT THE CHURCH!

THE DEACON PRESENTS HIMSELF AT THE DOOR OF ROOM 1309.

WELCOME, MY DEAR DEACON. I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU!

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT OF ME, RASPUTIN?

I HAVE ASKED YOU HERE BECAUSE I WANT TO ASK A FAVOR OF YOU--IF I MAY--SO--

IF YOU WILL JUST BEAR WITH ME--AND JUST CONCENTRATE ON WHAT I AM GOING TO TELL YOU--IT WILL BE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE!

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?

CATMAN COMICS

LIKE A SLITHERING SNAKE, THE PURRING WORDS OF THE MASTER HYPNOTIST WORM THEIR WAY INTO THE SUBCONSCIOUS MIND OF THE DEACON!

YOU ARE GOING TO LISTEN TO ME. YOU ARE GOING TO OBEY MY EVERY WHIM AND COMMAND...REPEAT THAT, DEACON!



LISTEN, RASPUTIN, WHAT THIS GUY DON'T KNOW ABOUT BANK VAULTS ISN'T WORTH KNOWING. I KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS A CRIB CRACKER - HE CAN OPEN 'EM NOT ONLY FROM THE OUTSIDE, BUT ONCE WHEN THEY LOCKED HIM IN - HE OPENED IT FROM THE INSIDE!



IN THE SHADOWS OF AN ADJOINING BUILDING, MICKEY WATCHES....

ORDERS OR NO ORDERS, IF THE DEACON ISN'T OUT OF THAT HOTEL IN FIVE MORE MINUTES, OH--HERE COMES RITA JORDAN!



YOUR EVERY WISH IS MY COMMAND

GOOD! YOUR FORMER CRIMINAL RECORD WILL PROVE IT'S WORTH TO ME!!

SOON THE HYPNOTIST'S VOICE IS BORING DEEP INTO THE BRAIN OF RITA JORDAN BY TELEPHONE.

WH-A-WHO--? RASPUTIN, JR.? OH-OH-YES--YES-- I'LL GO THERE AT ONCE!!



YOU WILL GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE CENTER CITY BANK AND BEGIN A CONVERSATION

WITH THE WATCHMAN...HE WON'T SUSPECT YOU--YOU ARE THE MAYOR'S DAUGHTER!



I WILL OBEY--I WILL GO NOW!

A PHONE CALL IS MADE TO LEW MOODY'S SUITE, AND A FEW MINUTES LATER THE GANG LEADER STANDS BEFORE HIS MOST HATED ENEMY - THE DEACON!!

THIS HOLY GUY IS THE SMARTEST RAFFLES WHO EVER CRACKED A CRIB - AND HERE HE IS--AS HELPLESS AS A BABY!!



MINUTES LATER, THE SOLITARY FIGURE OF RITA IS WALKING DOWN DESERTED MAIN STREET, IN CENTER CITY...

I MUST OBEY! I MUST OBEY EVERYTHING HE TELLS ME TO DO.



A SHORT TIME LATER MICKEY SEES A BLACK SEDAN ROLL UP TO THE HOTEL. THREE MEN ENTER THE CAR

YOU GUYS WAIT AT THE SIDE OF THE BANK, AND COVER US IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG!

GOT IT!

RIGHT, LEW!



GOSH, JUST AS I FIGURED! THE DEACON'S IN TROUBLE!

THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

WITH ALL THE SPRING OF HIS YOUTHFUL BODY, MICKEY RUSHES TOWARDS THE BANK...

SO THAT'S THEIR GAG, EH! I BET THEY ARE GOING TO TRY TO MAKE THE DEACON DO A JOB. WE STOPPED THEM ONCE, AND WE CAN STOP THEM AGAIN. THIS IS ONE TIME I CAN'T ASK THE COPS FOR HELP!



THERE IS A SLIGHT PUFF FROM A SILENCER EQUIPPED AUTOMATIC - AND...

I'LL TELL YOU WHY WE'RE HERE YOU OLD GOAT!



STRANGE WAVE OF EMOTION SWEEPS OVER THE DEACON'S MIND AS HE HEARS THE ORDER GIVEN OVER AND OVER AGAIN BY THE HYPNOTIST.

WHAT'S HE STALLING FOR?

HE'S NOT STALLING. THERE'S A TREMENDOUS BATTLE RAGING BETWEEN HIS CONSCIOUS AND SUBCONSCIOUS MIND.



THE HYPNOTIZED RITA IS TALKING TO THE SURPRISE NIGHT WATCHMAN...

RITA JORDAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE AT THIS TIME OF THE MORNING? WHAT'S WRONG, CHILD?

NOTHING, MR. REARDON -- OH -- J--JUST--



THE HORRIFIED MICKEY A WITNESS TO THIS KILLING, WATCHES THE TRIO INCLUDING HIS BELOVED DEACON ENTER THE BANK.

GOSH! THE DEAC MUST BE HYPNOTIZED SAME AS RITA -- THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO UN TANGLE THIS MESS.



THE THREE MEN COME TO A HALT BEFORE THE HUGE BANK VAULT.

THERE YOU ARE DEACON...AS HUGE AS THIS VAULT IS IT CAN BE OPENED BY SOMEONE LIKE YOU. YOU KNOW HOW TO JIGGLE THE TIME LOCK. NOW GET STARTED!!

YEAH, AND QUICK!!



MEANWHILE OUTSIDE - IN THE LOBBY OF THE BANK POOR MR. REARDON! HE WAS SHOT WITHOUT A CHANCE BY THAT DIRTY RAT, MOODY...AT LEAST I HAVE A GUN, SO THAT MAKES US EQUAL.



CATMAN COMICS

SLOWLY BUT SURELY THE TRIUMPH OF
THE DEACON'S SUBCONSCIOUS MIND
TAKES ITS EFFECT

IT WON'T WORK MOODY--
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY
TO GET RID OF HIM
BEFORE HE SQUEALS!



BUT AT THAT MOMENT THE BOUNDING FIGURE
OF A BRAVE BOY ENTERS THE ROOM

NO, YOU
DON'T!

MICKEY!

ARGGH!



THE BULLET
FINDS ITS
MARK IN
THE HEART
OF RASPUTIN.

RITA AND
THE DEACON
RECOVER
FROM THEIR
TRANCE--

THE SPELL
IS BROKEN
FOREVER--

THE FOLLOWING DAY
IN THE RECTORY OF
THE OLD MARSH-
LANDS CHURCH

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT
HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE
IS OVER, BUT I HAD TO
PROVE IT TO MYSELF, MICKEY;
NOW THAT I'M ON THE
STRAIGHT AND NARROW
PATH, I INTEND TO STAY THAT
WAY--I DON'T KNOW WHAT
MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF
IT HADN'T BEEN FOR YOU!

AW, SKIP IT, DEACON,
ONLY THE NEXT TIME
YOU GO ANYWHERE, I'D
BETTER TAG ALONG--
SOMEBODY'S GOT
TO TAKE CARE
OF YOU!



AIR THRILLS BY THE DOZENS! UNUSUAL FAST-PACED TALES!
ALL THIS, AND MANY STARTLING FEATURES in

The TOPS
in Punch
and Power!

Captain AERO

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No. 1
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stories...



CAT-MAN

COMICS

starring

THE CAT-MAN and the KITTEN



THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

The RECKONER

ART BY
DON TRICO

MEET THE RECKONER,
NEEMES OF THE ROBBED
BARONS OF GANGDOM!
ALL WHO INDULGE IN
EVIL MUST EVENTUALLY
FACE THE GLITTERING
SCALES OF JUSTICE OF
THIS ONE MAN CRU-
SADE AGAINST CRIME!
FOLLOW HIM IN HIS
FIRST AMAZING
ADVENTURE WITH...

"THE STAMPS
THAT SPILLED
BLOOD!"



RIGHT LADY!

OUR STORY OPENS AS MATTY MARTIN
CRUISES IN HIS CAB IN SEARCH OF A
FARE--AND ADVENTURE!

TAXI!

AH! A FARE!
AND A PRETTY
ONE TOO!

COMING,
LADY!



211 GROVE...
AND HURRY
PLEASE!



CATMAN COMICS





CATMAN COMICS



BACK THE ATTACK! BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

I OUGHTA KNOCK YOU OFF
RIGHT NOW--BUT SKULLY
WILL THINK OF A BETTER
WAY TO DO IT!

AW BUTTON YOUR
LIP YOU CHEAP
HOODLUM

-AND THAT'S THE STORY--
THE RECKONER MUFFED
THE DEAL/BUT HOW'RE WE
GONNA GET RID OF HIM
WITHOUT A TRACE?

YEAH, WE
CAN'T LET HIS
BODY BE FOUND
THAT WOULD BE
BAD--FOR US!

A HALF HOUR GOES BY AND THE RECKONER
HAS LOOSENED HIS BONDS--

TAKE IT EASY, FELLA! MY DAUGHTER!
WELL BE OUT OF
THIS VERY SOON!

I'M AFRAID
SHE'S --
DEAD--

DEAD!
GOOD HEAVENS!
HAVE MERCY ON ME
FOR EVER WANTING
THOSE ACCURSED
STAMPS!

SHHH!
HERE THEY
COME!

STAMPS/WHAT
IS THIS ALL
ABOUT ANY-
WAY?

OH YEAH, LEMME
SHOW YOU SOMETHIN'
RECKONER---

SO YOU'RE THE
RECKONER EH?
YES, AND I'M GOING
TO RECKON WITH
YOU, SKULLY!

WHAT A PLEASANT
FELLOW YOU ARE!

PLEASANT OR NOT--
HERE'S WHERE YOU'RE
GOING TO GET YOURS!

NO! DON'T!
NO!

I AINT NO SLOUCH WHEN IT
COMES TO KNOCKIN' GUYS OFF
SEE THOSE TROUGHS--?THEY
HOLD CEMENT/GET IT!



SUDDENLY!



BREAKING FREE OF HIS LOOSENED BONDS THE RECKONER SWINGS INTO ACTION...



LET 'EM HAVE IT, RECKONER! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YA'



YOU SAVED MY LIFE SON! WHAT'S YOUR NAME

AW---JUST CALL ME ROCKY. DAT'S DE ONLY NAME I EVER HAD



AFTER THE THUGS HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE THE RECKONER, ROCKY, AND MR. STURGES ARE IN THE OLDER MAN'S RESIDENCE.

YES--THE POSTAGE STAMPS WERE RARE SPECIMENS --WORTH OVER A HALF MILLION! MY DAUGHTER, AND I WERE KIDNAPPED! I HAD TO SEND HER BACK TO THE HOUSE TO PICK UP THE STAMPS OR THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED US BOTH----



THEY SENT A GUNMAN BACK HERE WITH HER--THE STAMPS WERE IN THE SAFE--HE PROBABLY TRIED TO PULL A DOUBLE CROSS AND SHOT HER! NOW MY DAUGHTER IS DEAD--MY STAMPS ARE GONE AND--

WAIT! SHE GAVE ME A LOCK OF HER HAIR! WHY--

STAY AT THIS PHONE! YOU'LL HEAR FROM US SOON! C'MON, ROCKY!

RIGHT BEHIND YA RECKONER!



THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

FIFTEEN
MINUTES
LATER,
BACK
AT THE
CAB...

HER HAIR!
THAT'S WHAT SHE
WAS TRYING TO
TELL ME!

GEE WHIZ! SHE
SURE WAS A
PRETTY COIL

SO, THIS IS THE
CAUSE OF SO MUCH BLOOD-
SHED: THREE LITTLE PIECES
OF FADED PAPER

YEAH, BUT IT SPELLS
BUCKS TO DEM GREAT
CHARACTERS WE TOOK
CARE OF!

NEXT DAY...

GEE, MARTY, IT SURE IS SWELL
TO KNOW I GOT SOMEBODY TO BE
WITH! TANKS FOR TAKIN' ME IN!
I'LL BE A BIG HELP TO YA!

OKAY, ROCKY!
FROM NOW ON WE
SHARE AND SHARE
ALIKE!

DON
RICO

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE
YOURSELF IN A COMIC BOOK?

AND SO THE FIRST CRIME
SOLVED, OUR TWO ADVENTUROUS PALS ARE READY
FOR THEIR NEXT! FOLLOW
THEM IN THE NEXT
STARTLING ISSUE OF
CATMAN COMICS!



HERES

Great News!

FOR EVERY READER OF
CATMAN COMICS

Write a TRUE PERSONAL ADVENTURE
that happened to YOU!

WIN THESE
PRIZES:

1ST PRIZE

\$25.00

UNITED STATES WAR BOND

2ND PRIZE

\$10.00

IN WAR STAMPS

and

100 PRIZES

OF **\$5.00** IN WAR

STAMPS EACH

Here are Rules of this Unusual Contest:

1. WRITE YOUR TRUE ADVENTURE LEGIBLY ON ONE
SIDE OF THE PAPER, STATING THE DATE, THE PLACE,
AND THE REAL NAMES OF THE PERSONS INVOLVED.
2. ENCLOSE A RECENT SNAPSHOT OF YOURSELF (NOT
RETURNABLE). IF YOUR STORY IS ACCEPTED, YOUR
LIKENESS WILL APPEAR IN THE COMIC STRIP MADE
FROM YOUR STORY.
3. THE DECISION OF THE EDITORS OF CONTINENTAL
MAGAZINES WILL BE FINAL.

THIS CONTEST IS OPEN TO
EVERY READER OF CATMAN
COMICS OF ANY AGE!
Send your Story in TODAY!

Address
CONTINENTAL MAGAZINES
Personal Adventure Dept.,
220 WEST 42ND ST.
NEW YORK CITY, N.Y.

DO YOUR PART FOR VICTORY ON THE HOME FRONT!

CATMAN COMICS presents

The HOOD

and The SONS of The RISING SUN

TOJO'S BUTCHERS TRY
TO MAKE A BLITZKREIG
FROM TOKIO TO SAN DIEGO--!
ANOTHER NEFARIOUS PLAN OF
THESE LITTLE BROWN MEN!
HOW CAN THE HOOD COPE
WITH THIS MOST UNUSUAL
SITUATION? READ ON, AND
LEARN THE SECRET OF THE
SONS OF THE RISING
SUN!



BACK THE ATTACK! BUY MORE WAR BONDS AND STAMPS!

THIS UNUSUAL TALE BEGINS ON SUNSET BLVD
HOLLYWOOD



THE SLINKING FIGURES LEAP UPON THE UN-SUSPECTING SOLDIER AND



IT IS GOOD! LET US AWAKEN NEJO!

TAP THE WINDOW
SOFTLY HE WILL
AWAKEN!

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS A STRANGE RE-
UNION TAKES PLACE IN ONE OF THE MOST
DEMOCRATIC OF ALL AMERICAN INSTITU-
TIONS... THE WESTERN COOK HOUSE...

COMMAND, WE
ARE READY TO
SERVE THE MI-
KADO!

IT IS OUR
PRIVILEGE
TO DIE FOR
NIPPON

BANZAI!

A GOOD MEAL OF AMERICAN FOOD AND
THE SIX LITTLE BROWN MEN ARE READY
TO START ON THE BIGGEST ADVENTURE
OF THEIR LIVES...

THESE CURSED
AMERICAN CLOTHES
ARE MOST REPUL-
SIVE! I LOATHES
THEM!

IT IS TRUE
BALI BUT ONE
MUST DEFILE
ONE'S SELF FOR
TRUE GLORY!

THESE STUPID AMERICAN COWHANDS
THINK I AM FILIPINO AND RIDICULE
ME FOR MY FASTIDIOUS ATTIRE. 'LITTLE
DO THEY KNOW THAT I AM A CAPTAIN
IN THE ARMY OF THE MIKADO!'

I WILL SUPPLY YOU WITH HORSES, AND
YOU WILL MAKE THE JOURNEY TO JEFFER-
SON CITY WHERE A PLANE WILL BE WAIT-
ING TO PICK YOU UP AFTER ACCOMPLISHING
YOUR MISSION.

THE STRINGS
OF FATE ARE
PULLED BY
MANY HANDS
FOR AT THAT
SAME MOMENT
MAJOR WOOD
IS MAKING A LONG
DISTANCE PHONE
CALL TO JEFFERSON
CITY...

GOOD! THERE ARE SIX SAMPLES.
EACH ONE DEADLIER THAN THE
OTHER! YOU HAVE THE FACILITIES
FOR STORING THEM!

AT THE OTHER END OF THE WIRE, IS WILFRED CARSON,
INVENTOR OF THE MOST DEADLY OF HIGH EXPLOSIVES,
CARLYTE...

THE ONLY FACILITIES FOR STORING THE SAMPLES
ARE AT THE EXPRESS OFFICE, HERE IN JEFFERSON
CITY. I WILL LOCK THEM IN THE 'SAFE' IT IS OLD
FASHIONED, BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD
DARE GO NEAR IT, IF THEY KNEW WHAT WAS THERE.
I HOPE MY EXPERIMENT WILL PROVE A SUCCESS.

I'LL FLY TO SEATTLE WITH THEM SOME-
TIME TOMORROW
AFTERNOON!

THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES, YOU LEND YOUR MONEY!

SIX SACKS OF CARLYTE ARE CAREFULLY PLACED IN THE OLD FASHIONED SAFE IN THE EXPRESS OFFICE

FOR MANY MONTHS WILFRED CARSON HAS BEEN LIVING IN DANGEROUS ISOLATION, DEVELOPING CARLYTE, SUPER EXPLOSIVE ONE MILLION TIMES MORE POWERFUL THAN TNT...

THERE'S ENOUGH POWER IN THIS SAFE TO BLOW ONE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS APART!

I AIN'T NERVOUS CARSON, BUT HEY WHAT'S THAT NOISE?



ALMOST OUT OF NOWHERE, SIX MASKED MEN APPEAR AT THE DOORWAY OF THE HARRIS OFFICE

PLEASE NOT TO CLOSE THE SAFE, OR IT WILL BE MY UNFORTUNATE DUTY TO DISPOSE OF YOU!

LOOK OUT YOU FOOL! YOU'LL BLOW US ALL SKY HIGH!



ORDINARILY WE WOULD NOT HESITATE A FRACTION OF A SECOND TO KILL THIS STUPID SWINE BUT WE REALIZE GUN SHOT WOULD AWAKEN ENTIRE TOWN!

IT WILL BE BETTER THAT YOU BE HUMILIATED BY BEING BOUND AND GAGGED!

I HAVE NEVER HEARD SUCH CHEER TALK FROM COW PUNCHERS!



REMOVING THE PRECIOUS GOVERNMENT OWNED CARLYTE, THE MASKED RIDERS MAKE OFF INTO THE NIGHT...

LET US HURRY! THE PLANE IS DUE NOW!



MEANWHILE CARSON AND THE STATION MASTER ARE BOUND AND GAGGED.

(GLUB) (GLUB) I HAVE FIGURED IT OUT CARSON! THEM THERE HOMBIES ARE JAPS!

GOOD HEAVENS! THEN WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE, QUICKLY, GLUB!

THE TELEPHONE RINGS NOISILY IN MAJOR WOODS HOTEL SUITE AT FOUR A.M.

YOU...WHAT? WHAT? THIS IS ULTERLY FANTASTIC! WHAT ELSE HAPPENED? YES...YES...ALRIGHT, I'LL GET STARTED RIGHT AWAY!



WINGING IT'S WAY TOWARDS SAN DIEGO WITH IT'S TEEMING WAR ACTIVITY IS A SMALL PRIVATELY OWNED PASSENGER PLANE

OUR PLAN IS WORKING TO THE LETTER. NEDO HAD TO PAY MANY PEOPLE IN ORDER TO GET THIS PLANE FOR US!

WE WILL BE IN SAN DIEGO IN THREE HOURS!



WE WILL LAND IN FIELD
ADDIKING ABANDONED
JAPANESE FARMHOUSE
AND PREPARE FOR OUR
NOBLE SACRIFICE

I CAN HARDLY WAIT
TO DIE IN SUCH AN
HONORABLE WAY
FOR THE EMPEROR!



I AM GOING TO WADE
INTO THIS THING, AS
THE HOOD!



COMMANDING HIS PRIVATE PLANE
WOOD ROARS ON WINGS OF VEN
GEANCE TO SAN DIEGO

THOSE NIPS WILL STOP AT
NOTHING TO GAIN THEIR OB-
JECTIVE! THIS IS THE TOUGHEST
RACE AGAINST TIME I HAVE EVER
HAD IN MY LIFE! IF MY HUNCH
IS RIGHT, THEY WILL LAND IN
A SMALL AREA TOWARDS THE
EAST!

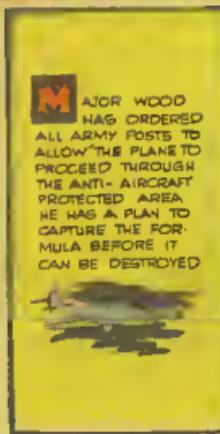


MEANWHILE AN EXCITED MAJOR WOOD HAS RECEIVED THE FIRST CLUE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE CARLYLE...



WHAT! YOU TELL ME THE
PLANE IS SPOTTED OVER
SPENCERVILLE?

MAJOR WOOD
HAS ORDERED
ALL ARMY POSTS TO
ALLOW THE PLANE TO
PROCEED THROUGH
THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT
PROTECTED AREA.
HE HAS A PLAN TO
CAPTURE THE FOR-
MULA BEFORE IT
CAN BE DESTROYED.

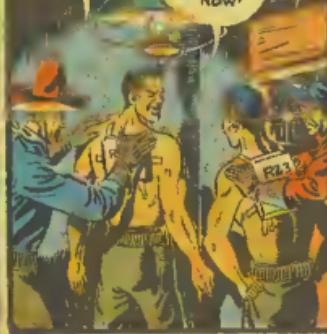


INSIDE OF AN ABANDONED FARM HOUSE
THE FATALISTIC SONS OF THE RISING
SUN PREPARE A RENDEZVOUS WITH
DEATH!!!

WHEN OUR
WORK IS DONE
A STATUE WILL
BE ERECTED TO
OUR HONOR
IN TOKIO!

OF COURSE,
IS NOT OUR
EXPLOIT AS
DANGEROUS
AS THOSE
FOR WHOM
A STATUE IS
ERECTED
NOW!

I AM
READY
TO
GO!



TOGETHER, AND THEN GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS! EACH, HAS HIS OBJECTIVE! THE BIRDS'VE "YEAH" BACK IS OF SUFFICIENT POWER TO COMPLETELY ANNIHILATE ANYTHING! YOU WILL OBSERVE THE CORD ON EACH CASE! THAT WAS TO BE USED FOR EXPERIMENTAL FUSE PRIMER A QUICK PULL OF THIS STRING AND IT IS ALL OVER!



IN THE TRADITIONAL SALUTE OF THE SUICIDE ORDER OF THE JAPS... THE FOUR PREPARE TO TAKE THEIR DEPARTURE...



BUT SUDDENLY THEY HEAR THE ROAR OF AN AMERICAN PURSUIT SHIP!



FROM THE GREENHOUSE OF HIS SPEEDY CRAFT, THE HOOD SEES THE JAPS PLANE...



WITH THE SKILL BORN OF YEARS OF EXPERT SKY NAVIGATION THE HOOD SUCCEEDS IN BRINGING THE PLANE SAFELY TO EARTH...

AH HAI! AND HERE'S THE WELCOMING COMMITTEE!

WE ARE UNARMED WE FORGOT OUR GUNS!

AND AS THE HOOD GETS OUT OF HIS PLANE HE IS CONFRONTED BY THE JAPS



WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, AND EVEN BEFORE THE JAP CAN TOUCH THE STRING, HE RECEIVES A TERRIFIC PUNCH IN THE JAW...

IS THAT SO? WELL IF I'M GOING YOU'RE COMING WITH ME! THAT STUFF DON'T EXPLODE ON CONTACT AS EASY AS YOU THINK!



YOU GUYS THINK YOUR SMART EH? IT SO HAPPENS THAT THOSE GLASS YOU HAVE ON YOUR BACKS ARE PHONY'S! THERE'S NO EXPLOSIVES IN THEM. THE REAL CAROLY IS HIDDEN ELSEWHERE IN JEFFERSON CITY!



HAHAI! THE RISING SONS OF NIPPON! WHAT A LAUGH! YOU GUYS AREN'T SO BRAVE NOW THAT YOU CAN'T DIE FOR YOUR BELOVED EMPEROR. YOU LOOK LIKE A BUNCH OF MONKEYS SCRATCHING THEIR BACKS!

WHY DO WE WAIT? WE ARE FOUR, HE IS ONE!

WE HAVE BEEN BETRAYED!



WITH BUND FOLLY THE FOUR JAPS CHARGE OUR
GALLANT DEFENDER . . .

WHAM!

THIS WILL
PUT YOU TO
SLEEP!

EVEN IF THERE WERE A
CHARGE OF CARLYTE IN
THOSE CASES, IT CAN ONLY
BE EXPLODED ONE WAY!

UGH!!

BAM

IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES TO TELL
FOUR SONS OF THE RISING SUN ARE
DOWN AND OUT...

GOOD! HERE COME SOME
AMERICAN STAFF CARS
YOUR WOUNDS WILL BE
TAKEN CARE OF

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

SO YOU'RE
GOING TO FLY
TO JEFFERSON
CITY? I'M CER-
TAINLY GLAD
THAT THESE
SLABS WERE
PHONIES!

PHONIES! THEY R-
NOT PHONIES. IT
SO HAPPENS THAT
THE OUTSIDE SHELL
IS A PHONEY. THE
REAL CASE AND
CORD ARE IN-
SIDE

YOU MEAN THAT
THESE SLABS OF
CARLYTE ARE THE
REAL THING?

ABSOLUTELY! IT
WAS JUST ONE OF
THE MANY PRE-
CAUTIONS THAT
CARSON TOOK TO
PROTECT THIS STUFF.
IT WILL NOT EXPLODE
ON CONTACT. THAT
WAS WHY I WAS
ABLE TO SOP
THOSE NIPS
AROUND

AND SO OFF FOR JEFFERSON
CITY HEADS OUR INTREPID
FIGHTER OF SABOTAGE TO
RETURN THE PRECIOUS
SLABS OF CARLYTE.

SEVERAL DAYS LATER IN A SWANK, HOLLYWOOD
CAFE...

HAVE YOU HEARD OF
THE LATEST EXPLOIT OF
THE HOOD AND HOW HE
SAVED SO MANY LIVES?
WHY CAN'T THE ARMY
FIND AND USE A MAN
LIKE HIM?

I DON'T KNOW RAG'
WHERE HE COMES
FROM AND WHERE
HE GOES NO ONE
EVER SEEMS TO
KNOW!

THE HOOD HAS A SURPRISE IN STORE
FOR YOU IN NEXT MONTH'S ADVENTURE
OF THE HOOD IN THE

NEXT ISSUE OF

CATMAN COMICS